

13. OCCURRENCE OF HODGSON'S PIPIT (*ANTHUS ROSEATUS*) IN SAURASHTRA

It was at the end of March and beginning of April that I witnessed the return migration of different kinds of wagtails on the Gaurishanker lake, Bhavnagar. There were a multitude of them, but what attracted my attention was a pipit, much like our tree-pipit, walking by itself on the green grass close to the water's edge. It was brighter but appeared much the type which Horace Alexander had recently pointed out to me in Delhi as Hodgson's Pipit. That bird I never saw again, but in trying to rediscover it I came across a number of others in fresh plumage—vinous pink or warm buffy breasts, heavy striations on the upper parts and conspicuous black streaks on the flanks—answering to what Alexander had described as their breeding plumage. There were also a few without the bright breasts. But as I had never met the species here before, specimen collecting was the only way of confirming my identification. It was more than difficult to approach the birds as they took wing just out of range; and as soon as I flushed a bird it chased another and the pair settled far away, always keeping to the waterside. I finally managed to collect three of which two were sent to the Bombay Natural History Society for verification. Sâlim Ali informs me that he has never seen this species from further south than Gwalior so this would seem to be a new record.

DIL BAHAR,
BHAVNAGAR,
1st May, 1951.

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14. DISTRIBUTION OF THE BLUE-BEARDED BEE-EATER
[*NYCTIORNIS ATHERTONI* (JARDINE & SELBY)]

With reference to 'Notes on some Asiatic Meropidae' by Daniel Marien in Vol. 49. No. 2 (p. 162) I have to point out that Mr. E. H. N. Lowther in his book 'A Bird Photographer in India' reports on page 34 the occurrence of the Blue-bearded Bee-eater at Topchanchi Reservoir in the Manbhum District of Chota Nagpur.

I have also come across another reported occurrence of the species in Chota Nagpur, where according to Mr. Marien the bird has not been seen. A pair was seen on 5-11-44 by Captain R. H. Baillie at Hazaribagh, and was reported by him in the *Journal of the Bengal Natural History Society* (Vol. XX, No. 4, April, 1946). Dr. S. C. Law commenting on Captain Baillie's recordings in a series of critical notes in subsequent issues of the same journal referred to his own experience of the bird-life of Hazaribagh and said that the Blue-bearded Bee-eater was rare in the District and its status and distribution uncertain.

I have never seen the Blue-bearded Bee-eater myself in Chota Nagpur proper, but I have seen it a little to the north-east at Gidhaur in Monghyr District. According to Mr. Marien himself the bird was collected in